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January 29, 2019

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our three million members and the 50 million students they serve, we strongly urge you to VOTE YES on the Federal Civilian Workforce Pay Raise Fairness Act of 2019 (H.R. 790) to bring the 2019 pay increase for civilian federal employees in line with the raise the military received. Those employees include the faculty and staff of 164 schools, serving more than 73,000 students, operated by the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) in 11 foreign countries, seven states, Guam, and Puerto Rico. Votes on this issue may be included in NEA's report card for the 116th Congress.

DoDEA provides an outstanding education for military dependents and has done so for many years. On the most recent National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP), the nation's report card, eighth graders in DoDEA schools lead the nation in reading; fourth graders in DoDEA schools tied with their counterparts in Massachusetts for the nation's top score in mathematics.

On the heels of the recent 35-day government shutdown, which forced 800,000 federal employees to miss their paychecks, this bill sends an important message — it tells federal workers we appreciate the contributions they make to our nation. It also helps ensure that DoDEA schools can continue to recruit and retain high-quality faculty and staff — people who can, in turn, help their students navigate the unique stresses and situations of military life.

For all of these reasons, we strongly urge you to support the Federal Civilian Workforce Pay Raise Fairness Act of 2019.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan  
Director of Government Relations  
National Education Association